## **Guide to Online Game Check – DEER**

This guide will walk you through the process of using the *MassFishHunt* system to check your deer online. Please take a few minutes and read through this guide before beginning.

All successful hunters must check their harvested deer within 48 hours either online through the *MassFishHunt* system or at a physical check station. Remember, you can only check your deer online during the archery and primitive seasons. All deer harvested during the shogun season must be brought to a physical checkstation. This is for two reasons: 1) to ensure our staff has adequate biological data and 2) to evaluate whether there is a change in reporting rate with the new online system.

To check a harvested deer online, there are a few, but very important pieces of information needed. Required information will include: town of harvest, zone of harvest, date and season of harvest, the deer's sex and number of points if antlered, how many deer you harvested to date, hunting equipment used, and whether the deer was taken on private or public land. In addition and if available, optional data questions will include: deer weight, whether the deer was gutted, and whether the weight is an estimate or from a scale. Please use care when entering information on the harvested deer into the MassFishHunt system, particularly with the date of harvest and the town and zone.

Remember the harvest tag must remain attached to the deer throughout this process. After the completion of the online game check, a confirmation number will be generated that must be written on the harvest tag. NOTE: <u>Deer must be checked BEFORE</u> being processed for food or taxidermy purposes.

Please contact the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (DFW) during business hours at 508-389-6300 if you experience any issues checking a deer online.

1) To start, go to the official *MassFishHunt* webpage by clicking below, or copy and paste the following link into your webbrowser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, Safari) to reach the official *MassFishHunt* webpage.

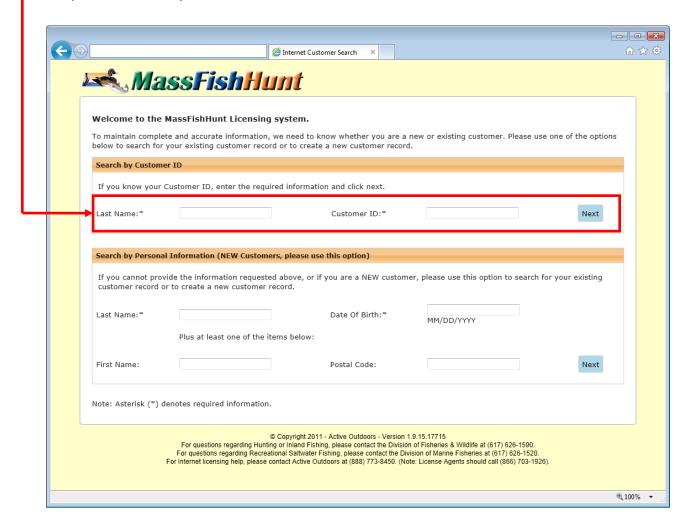
http://www.mass.gov/massfishhunt



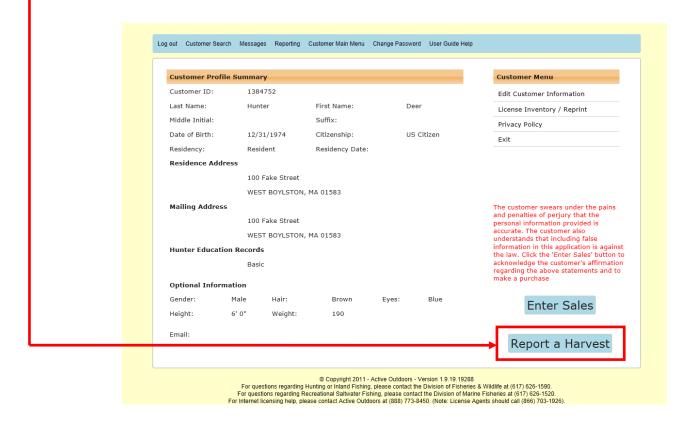
Click the [Enter MassFishHunt] button shown above.

2) To enter the *MassFishHunt* system, enter your Last Name and Customer ID number from your hunting/sporting license, antlered deer tag, or antlerless deer permit in the appropriate field and click **NEXT**. Your Customer ID number can be found in the top left corner of your hunting/sporting license, antlered deer tag, or antlerless deer permit.

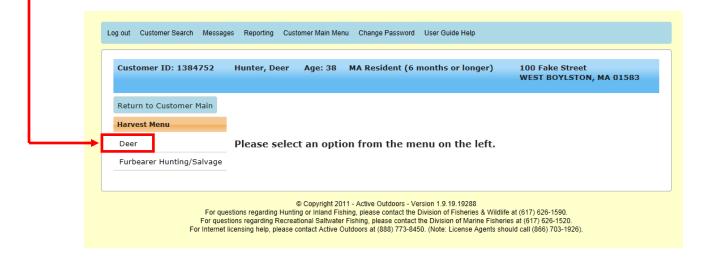
**Or** you can enter your Last Name, First Name, D.O.B., and Postal Code below.



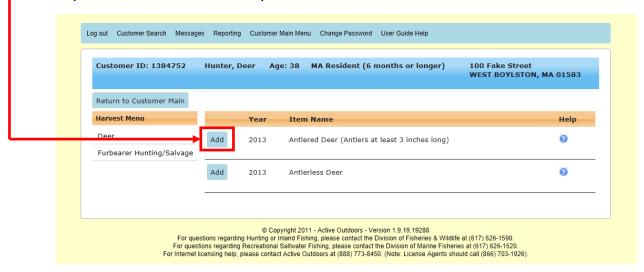
\_3) Once logged into the MassFishHunt system you can begin your online deer check; click on the REPORT A HARVEST button.



**-4)** Click the **Deer** option on the left side under **HARVEST MENU**. On this page, you may also see options to check other game (i.e., turkey, furbearers, etc.) during their respective seasons if you have the appropriate licenses or permits.



- 5) You are now ready to begin your online game check for a harvested deer.
- a) If Antlered Click the ADD button next to Antlered Deer to begin checking the harvested antlered deer online. If you do not have an antlerless deer permit, it will not show up.



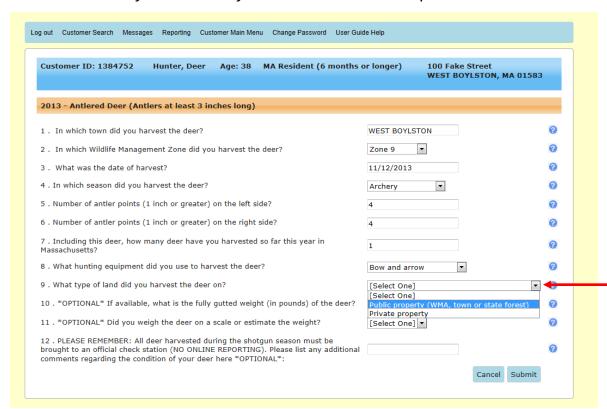
- b) If Antlerless - Click the ADD button next to Antlerless Deer to begin checking the harvested antlerless deer online. If you do not have an antlerless deer permit, this option will not show up.



8) The 2013 DEER HARVEST REPORT consists of a series of questions, many of which are multiple-choice. The first 8 or 9 questions (depending on whether antlered or antlerless) are required information, the rest regarding weight and comments are optional. You may need to examine the deer for some of these questions. Accurate responses to these questions provide DFW biologists important information used to evaluate and manage the statewide deer population. Please take a few minutes and answer each question accurately. Simply click in the box to the right of each question and enter or click on the appropriate response.

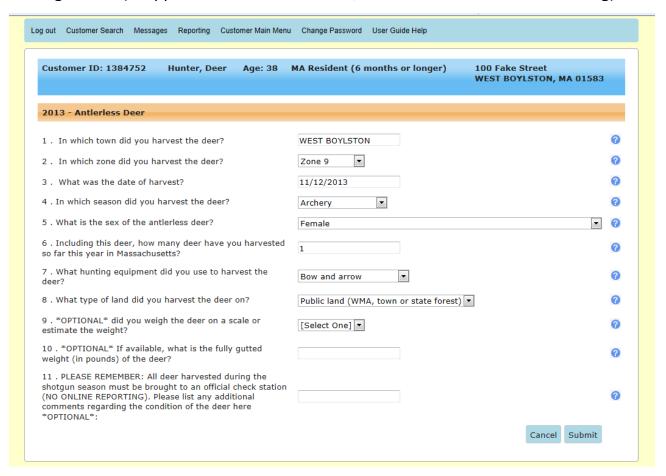
## a) Antlered Deer Harvest Report

For antlered deer, enter the number of points ( $\geq$  than 1 inch long) on each side. The main beam always counts as a point as long as it is at least 3 in. long, even if broken off where it meets a tine. The deer's right side would be on your left if looking at its face or on your right if holding the rack from the rear. In the rare case of an antlered female – denote this in question 12.

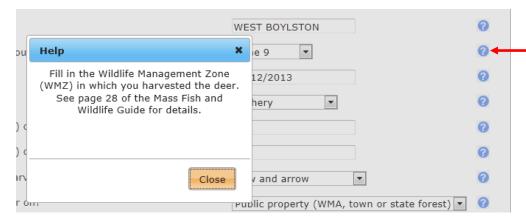


## b) Antlerless Deer Harvest Report

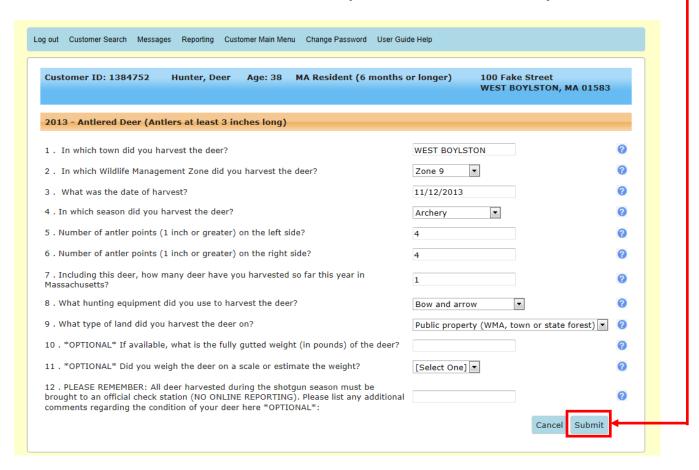
Enter the sex of the deer as either female, button buck (6-month old male), or sub-legal male (dropped or broken off antlers, or antlers less than 3 inches long).



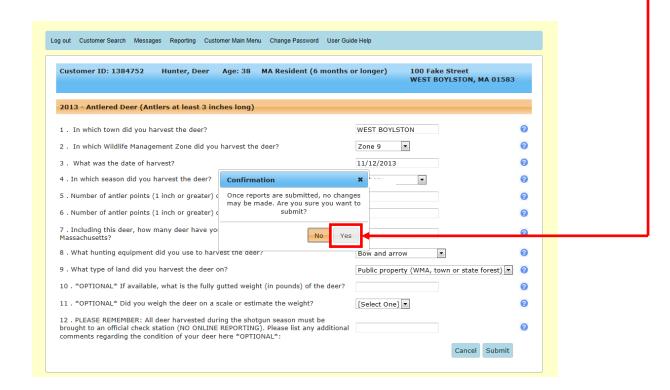
a) Click on the question marks to the right of each question for additional information to help answer each question.



9) Once you have completed answering all questions, click the SUBMIT button Please double-check to ensure that all required fields are accurately entered.



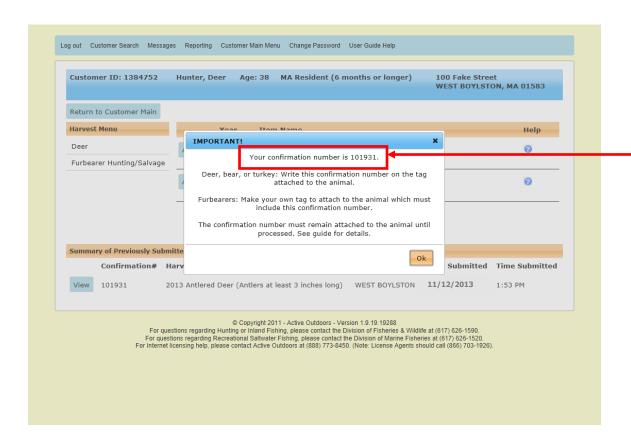
**10)** Click **YES** to confirm the submission on the pop-up. Before doing so, **make sure all the information provided is accurate** as you will not be able to edit any information after clicking YES. If you need to edit any information at this point, click NO and proceed to modify your entries, then click SUBMIT.



**NOTE:** If a required field is not filled in or there is a mismatch error (i.e., town and zone do not match) it will alert you of the error and will not continue to the confirmation number. Please double-check before entering your information.



11) After completing the online game check, a unique CONFIRMATION NUMBER will be generated. It is required that this confirmation number is written on the harvest tag (on the harvested deer), where it shall remain until the deer is processed for food or taxidermy purposes. Butchers or taxidermists cannot accept any game without either an official seal or a harvest tag with a confirmation number.

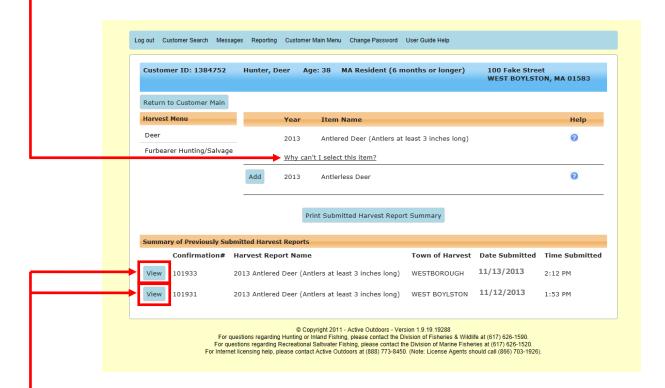


Click on the **OK** button after you have recorded the confirmation number.

You must immediately write the <u>confirmation number</u> on the tag which is attached to the deer. The confirmation number is different from the transaction number that is on their receipt.

12) You can harvest 2 antlered deer per year and as many antlerless deer as you have valid permits for. Thus, once you submit 2 antlered deer harvest reports, you can no longer add an additional antlered deer harvest report. If you do not have an antlerless permit, the ADD option will not be available for an antlerless deer (won't show up). If you have filled your antlerless permit/s and have submitted you harvest report for that/those antlerless deer, you will no longer be able to choose an antlerless deer harvest report.

After submission, if an error was made on the harvest report, you can no longer edit it and must contact MassWildlife during business hours at 508-389-6300.



**13)** The *MassFishHunt* system will store your submitted game checks and a copy can be re-printed at any time. To view the specific details of any one online harvest report, click the **VIEW** button/s. To view or print harvest reports at a later point in time, repeat steps 1-4.